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Democratic Platform Committee

Max S. Baucus

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Baucus, Max S., "Democratic Platform Committee" (August 7, 1982). *Max S. Baucus Speeches*. 215.
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Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

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(1) Subject*: **Federal Issues**

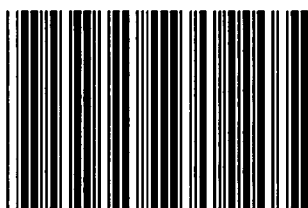
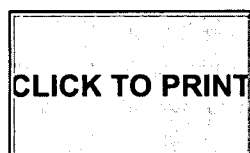
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(2) Subject* **Democratic Platform Committee**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **08/07/1982**

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BAUCUS

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM COMMITTEE

AUGUST 7, 1982

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY, WITH PEOPLE LIKE ---, AND ---, TO BRING TOGETHER A DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM. THE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING TO DEMOCRATS FOR LEADERSHIP. WE MUST PROVIDE IT.

MONTANA AND THE NATION FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS:

OVER TEN MILLION AMERICANS, AND THIRTY THOUSAND MONTANANS, ARE OUT OF WORK.

INTEREST RATES ARE 15 PERCENT.

BANKRUPTCIES ARE AT 1932 LEVELS.

FARMERS SUFFER FROM HIGH COSTS, LOW PRICES, AND MOUNTING FORECLOSURES.

DESPITE THE ENORMOUS PATIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE REPUBLICAN PROGRAM IS NOT WORKING AND IT IS NOT FAIR. CERTAINLY WE CAN DO BETTER, AND THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY.

GEORGE ORWELL REMINDED US THAT LIBERTY SOMETIMES MEANS "TELLING PEOPLE WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR."

THE REPUBLICANS WON THE 1980 ELECTION BY DOING JUST THE OPPOSITE.

THEY PROMISED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

YET THEY CUT TAXES, DRASTICALLY.

AND THEY PROPOSED AN ALMOST WAR-TIME DEFENSE BUDGET.

THEY PROMISED JOBS FOR THE WORKERS, SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY, AND A SAFETY NET FOR THE POOR.

TRUST US, THEY SAID, AND THINGS WOULD IMPROVE FOR EVERYONE.

BELIEVE, THEY TOLD US: WE CAN DO IT ALL AT ONCE, AND BRING A RISING TIDE OF PROSPERITY.

WELL, IT HASN'T WORKED, IT WONT WORK, IT CAN'T WORK.

IT ISN'T FAIR, IT ISN'T RIGHT, IT ISN'T REASONABLE.

IN 1980, JOHN ANDERSON SAID IT COULD ONLY WORK WITH SMOKE AND MIRRORS.

AFTER REDING THE COMMENTS OF BUDGET DIRECTOR STOCKMAN, WE HAVE FOUND THE MIRRORS.

NOW THE REPUBLICANS HAVE BEGUN A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN. HERE COMES THE SMOKE.

I AM TIRED OF PIOUS REPUBLICAN RHETORIC ABOUT A BALANCED BUDGET. HISTORY WILL JUDGE THIS AS AN UNBELIEVABLE ACT OF HYPOCRISY.

THE REPUBLICANS WANT A BALANCED BUDGET?

THEN WHO PROPOSED A FIVE YEAR, TRILLION AND A HALF DOLLAR DEFENSE BUDGET? CERTAINLY NOT THE DEMOCRATS.

EVEN THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET DIRECTOR SAID WE COULD REDUCE THE DEFICIT BY SAVING \$10-30 BILLION IN DEFENSE.

THE REPUBLICANS FAVOR FISCAL CONSERVATISM?

THEN WHO PROPOSED A FIVE YEAR, \$750 BILLION TAX CUT THAT IS NOW BEING SCALED BACK BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECT ON THE DEFICIT?

WHO PREACHED THE GOSPEL OF LOWER DEFICITS?

WHO CASTIGATED DEMOCRATS AS BIG SPENDERS WHO WOULD BANKRUPT THE NATION?

THE SAME REPUBLICANS WHO HAVE GIVEN US RECORD FEDERAL DEFICITS.

THE SAME ADMINISTRATION THAT BROKE ITS GREAT CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF 1980, BY DOUBLING THE DEFICITS OF THOSE THEY CALLED BIG SPENDERS.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY THEY FAVOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT.

BUT WHO ISSUES THESE PERIODIC WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIC REPORTS, WHICH ARE SO INACCURATE THAT EVEN ADMINISTRATION ECONOMISTS DISAVOW THEM IN PRIVATE?

CERTAINLY NOT THE DEMOCRATS.

AND IT'S NOT GOOD MANAGEMENT TO HAVE A MX MISSILE PROPOSAL EVERY THREE MONTHS.

THEY CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE UP THEIR MIND.

SHOULD IT BE IN LAND, SEA OR IN THE AIR?

SHOULD IT BE IN SILOS THAT ARE UNHARDENED, HARDENED, SUPERHARDENED, OR DENSE-PACKED?

THIS IS IRRATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY -- AND IRRESPONSIBLE FISCAL POLICY. WE SHOULD CUT THIS FUNDING, AND HELP THE REPUBLICANS FULFILL THEIR BROKEN PROMISES OF LOWERED DEFICITS.

AND WE CAN DO WITHOUT TELEVISION COMMERCIALS IN WHICH A POSTMAN THANKS THE REPUBLICANS FOR COST OF LIVING INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY. THE ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO KILL THOSE INCREASES IN CONGRESS. THEY SHOULD BE MORE HONEST.

I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WANT TO RUN THOSE ADS.

THERE IS A FEELING IN THE COUNTRY -- WHICH IS ACCURATE -- THAT THE PROGRAM IS JUST NOT FAIR.

FORGET, FOR A SECOND, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED TAX BREAKS FOR SEGREGATED SCHOOLS.

NEVER MIND THAT THEY ARE SLASHING EDUCATION, SELLING SHORT OUR YOUTH AND OUR FUTURE.

PUT ASIDE THE FACT THAT THEY ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO WOULD PILLAGE THE PUBLIC LANDS FOR PRIVATE PROFIT.

DISCARD THE FACT THAT WHILE HIGHWAYS DETERIORATE, THEY LOOK THE OTHER WAY, AND WHILE PEOPLE ARE JOBLESS, THEY CUT JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND WHILE THE HOUSING INDUSTRY IS IN DEPRESSION, THEY SAY WE CAN'T AFFORD A BILL TO HELP.

FORGET ALL THAT -- FOR A SECOND -- AND LOOK AT THE TAX CUT.

COMPARE A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH A \$20,000 INCOME, WITH A FAMILY OF FOUR THAT MAKES \$100,000.

IN 1982, THE MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY GETS A TAX BREAK OF UNDER \$300. THE WEALTHY FAMILY GETS ALMOST \$3,000 -- TEN TIMES AS MUCH.

IN 1984, THE MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY WILL RECEIVE AN EXTRA \$600. BUT THE WEALTHY FAMILY WILL GET ALMOST \$7,000 -- MORE THAN TEN TIMES AS MUCH.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY UNFAIR -- BUT HAS IT WORKED?

THEY PROMISED INVESTMENT, BUT INVESTMENT HAS NOT RISEN.

THEY PROMISED A SURGE OF SAVINGS THAT HAS NOT COME.

BUT MANY LUXURIES ARE SELLING QUITE WELL -- FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD THEM. AND THE DEFICIT HAS RISEN, AND WE ARE PAYING THE PRICE IN INTEREST RATES THAT ARE STRANGLING THE ECONOMY.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE POOR? WHAT ABOUT THE SAFETY NET?

THEY ARE FALLING THROUGH IT.

THE HUNGRY, THE TIRED, THE POOR ARE TOLD THEY CANNOT BE HELPED.

LAST SUNDAY'S INDEPENDENT RECORD HAD A STORY ABOUT THE SALVATION ARMY. IN HELENA, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP IS UP ABOUT 100 PERCENT. AND THE SALVATION ARMY CANNOT AFFORD TO HELP THEM ALL.

HERE IS A GROUP THAT REPRESENTS VOLUNTARISM AND GENEROSITY. THEY RAISE MONEY LOCALLY. THEY GIVE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO HELP OTHERS.

AND THEY ARE SO OVERWORKED THAT THEY HAD TO CLOSE DOWN FOR TWO WEEKS.

WHAT DOES THE ADMINISTRATION DO? THEY CUT PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR, TO FINANCE A TAX CUT THAT TARGETS THE MOST MONEY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT THE LEAST.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD SAY QUITE SIMPLY THAT THIS HAS NOT WORKED, THIS IS NOT FAIR, AND THIS SHOULD BE CHANGED.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD SUPPORT TAX REFORMS THAT POSTPONE SOME OF THE BENEFITS FOR THE MOST WEALTHY AMERICANS. AND WE SHOULD EVALUATE THE ENTIRE TAX CODE, TO REMOVE LOOPHOLES AND SHELTERS THAT ARE ABUSED.

WE SHOULD SUPPORT A STEADY INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING -- BUT NOT A RADICAL PROGRAM THAT WOULD HAVE DEFENSE AS 37 PERCENT OF ALL FEDERAL SPENDING BY 1987.

WE CAN ALLOW TAX CUTS AND DEFENSE INCREASES, BUT AT MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE LEVELS. WE CAN SAVE TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, LOWER INTEREST RATES, AND PREVENT THE MOST DRACONIAN BUDGET CUTS.

AND WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL.

MUTUAL ARMS CONTROL. VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL. BALANCED ARMS CONTROL.

WE NEED TO STOP TALKING ABOUT LIMITED NUCLEAR WARS, WINNABLE NUCLEAR WARS, AND SURVIVABLE NUCLEAR WARS -- AND WE NEED TO START

ACTING TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WARS.

WE NEED A MANHATTAN PROJECT IN REVERSE -- TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE IN ITS TRACK, TO STOP THIS NUCLEAR MADNESS BEFORE WE ARE BROKE OR BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

ON THIS POINT, OUR COMMITMENT SHOULD BE CLEAR AND COURAGEOUS -- FIRM, STRONG, AND UNEQUIVOCAL.

I BELIEVE IF WE STAND FOR FAIRNESS, IF WE PRACTICE HONESTY, AND IF WE EXERCISE LEADERSHIP, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IF JOHN MELCHER IS RE-ELECTED.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IF PAT WILLIAMS IS RE-ELECTED.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IF WE CAN SEND HOWARD LYMAN TO WASHINGTON.

IT WOULD MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE IF THE DEMOCRATS COULD REGAIN CONTROL OF THE SENATE, AND MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE.

THAT IS OUR JOB AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

LET'S DO IT.

THANK YOU.